



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
TWO FELONS SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two felons were sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing firearms.

* **Victor M. Roman**, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to four years in federal prison without parole.

On July 23, 2004, **Roman** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Roman** admitted that he was in possession of a Stallard Arms 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on March 19, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Roman** has two 1998 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance, one 1998 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon and one 1998 criminal felony conviction for tampering.

Roman was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 6, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Gerald M. Scruggs**, 43, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to two years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 20, 2004, **Scruggs** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Scruggs** admitted that he was in possession of a J.C. Higgins .22-caliber

revolver on Jan. 15, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Scruggs** has a 1987 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

Scruggs was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 5, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow